

ENTREPRENEURIAL AND SKILFUL YOUTH EASY

SOFIA, BULGARIA

11th - 17th January 2015

LEARNING/TEACHING/TRAINING ACTIVITY

ISSUE 1



About programme ERASMUS+



The new Erasmus+ programme aims to support actions in the fields of Education, Training, Youth and Sport for the period 2014-2020.

Erasmus+ replaced seven programmes bringing together:

- The Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Comenius, Grundtvig and Jean Monnet)
- The Youth in Action programme
- Five international cooperation programmes (Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink, the programme for cooperation with industrialised countries)
- The new sport action.

Erasmus + provides grants for a wide range of actions and activities in the fields of education, training, youth and sport. The programme gives opportunities to students, trainees, staff and volunteers to spend a period abroad to increase their skills and employability. It supports organisations to work in transnational partnership and to share innovative practices in the fields of education, training and youth. Erasmus+ also includes a strong international dimension (i.e. cooperation with Partner Countries) notably in the field of higher education, which opens the programme to institutional cooperation and mobility of young people and staff worldwide. The new Sport action supports grassroots projects and cross-border challenges such as combating

match-fixing, doping, violence and racism.

The European Commission, DG Education and Culture, is in charge of the policies related to the fields of Education, Training and Youth.

There are three Key Actions within the Erasmus+ programme:

- KA 1 – Learning mobility of individuals
- KA 2 – Cooperation for innovations and good practices
- KA 3 – Support to policy reforms

The „EASY“ project is under Key Action 2 – strategic partnership among schools.

Who we are?

TURKEY - Karaty Anadolu Lisesi, general education (secondary level). The school is one of the most successful schools in the region. It has got outstanding achievements in cultural , academic fields. They have gained a lot of academic success. They cooperate with schools from different European countries. The teachers are highly educated professionals and the educators are open towards students, willing to help them in acquiring new knowledge and skills, in broadening their interests and horizons.

LATVIA - Liepajas Raina 6 vidusskola: They are an open-minded and modern general education secondary level school where the engagement and curiosity are the main impulsive forces within the exposed learning process integrated through the cooperation between teachers and students. They think learning should be carried out more outside the room (also in virtual classrooms) than inside it. They make meaningful use of new technologies to encourage the students' development. Moreover, they have done the first steps towards transforming the learning environment by means of changing the lesson duration to 80 minutes to encourage more student-centred learning and create space for individual approaches.

PORTUGAL - Centro de Estudos e Formação Aquiles Estação, Lda. The Centro de Estudos e Formação Aquiles Estação, Lda, is a private school in the vocational education system. It is the owner of the Escola Profissional Fialho de Almeida, a Vocational School that is situated in the south of Portugal, a small town, Vidigueira, in Beja's district. Baixo Alentejo region is one of the poorest regions of the EU, it has a lack of industry and enterprises, few perspectives. This Vocational School approaches professional education in a perspective that privileges the development of the abilities techniques.

ITALY: IT „Morigia-Perdisa“ consists of an Istituto Tecnico per Geometri and an Istituto Tecnico Agrario - a secondary technical school for surveyors the former and a school of agriculture the latter. It is a public school with a good operational and financial situation. The school makes diverse projects to increase the students' competences and culture and has a long experience in non-formal learning to fight the early school leaving and increase the students' motivation.

CZECH REPUBLIC - Střední odborná škola ochrany osob a majetku. It is a secondary vocational school that offers vocational subjects that are not taught so often. The school has branches in two other towns in the region and offers its students many after-school activities connected with the branch of their study.

BULGARIA - Prof. Ivan Apostolov Private English Language School is a leading secondary school in the country and is the only school in Bulgaria that uses specially designed syllabuses authorized and licensed by the Ministry of Education. The curriculum in Management Program gives students the opportunity to explore a wide range of disciplines /Entrepreneurship inclusive/, which form the basis of education that meets the requirements of the modern economy. The subjects, studied in the program, prepare students to face the challenges.

About EASY project

Europe needs more entrepreneurs, more innovation and more high-growth SMEs. This is why it is necessary to stimulate the entrepreneurial mindsets of young people. The important role of education in promoting more entrepreneurial attitudes and behaviour is now widely recognised and it is top priority in Europe.

This project combines both an involvement in the culture of diverse countries and in medium or small enterprises.

The project is based on intercultural exchanges but it also involves micro-internships in firms. In fact, both the knack for inventing and ideas for a business venture can only develop if people see as many work environments as possible.

Our project starts from the knowledge that the RIGHT TO WORK is the very basis for our freedom and students are required to adapt themselves to an ever-changing environment to create their own working life. In fact, Life and Career Skills play a key role in the Framework for 21st Century Learning and students are more and more supposed to:

- adapt to change,
- be flexible,
- manage goals and time,
- work independently,
- interact effectively with others - especially in an INTERCULTURAL SOCIETY
- work effectively in diverse teams
- manage projects
- produce results
- guide others
- be responsible to others.

Interdisciplinary collaborations are a key to success. The six partners, although different in the type of school and specialisation, will work closely together to help students develop a global outlook while connecting with people from different backgrounds and thriving in a globalised world.

Logo of project:



Terms and themes

On the 23-26 of November, 2014 all coordinators from all the countries within the frame of the program participated in the first introductory meeting in the main country coordinator, Italy in Ravenna, where we were hosted by the main Coordinator **Cristina Casagrande**. At this meeting, all the participants agreed on clear rules of operation concerning the project and also on the tasks of individual countries. Further, the themes were clarified on which the individual mobility will be focused and the terms will be kept.

The host countries always in cooperation with the main Coordinator will prepare a program for mobility, which will correspond to the project application, and will be in accordance with the rules of the project.

The project partners have agreed on the following:

BULGARIA
11th - 17th January 2015
Topic: *Language Skills and Entrepreneurship*

TURKEY
8th - 14th March 2015
Topic: *Critical Thinking and Problem Solving*

PORTUGAL
3rd - 9th May 2015
Topic: *Entrepreneurial Skills*



ITALY
27th September - 3rd October 2015
Topic: *Non-formal learning*

CZECH REPUBLIC
29th November - 5th December 2015
Topic: *ICT and Communication*

LATVIA
21st - 27th February 2016
Topic: *Entrepreneurial skills and ICT*

PARTICIPANTS in BULGARIA



Czech Republic

Zdenka Parchanska
Jana Skypalova
Marie Svobodova
Jakub Cieslar
Karel Hynek
Michael Jastrzembski
Lucie Kratka
Karin Varnuskova

Italy

Claudia Carta
Daniela De Zerbi
Beatrice Basevi
Matteo Cacchi
Letizia Mazzavillani
Simone Melandri
Ana Turcan

Latvia

Karlis Strautins
Inga Zomerfelde
Elviss Straupenieks
Madara Mezgirte
Sindija Deklava
Marta Pagraba
Janis Sprogis

Portugal

Vanda Isabel Passinhas Galrito
Marta Alexandra Guerreiro Marques
Erica Parrinha Mira
Eva Caeiro Paulino
Joana Mira
Joana Lanca
Alice Capito

Turkey

Halil Yavuz
Rasit Araz
Yalcin Ekin
Cemre Yilmaz
Cevahir Almila Parlar
Özkan Koca
Hasan Uguz
Türker Serdar Sümer

LANGUAGE SKILLS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

PROGRAMME

SUNDAY, 11th January

- meeting at the airport
- sightseeing tour of Sofia
- welcome dinner with families

MONDAY, 12th January

- welcome to Prof. Ivan Apostolov School
- Presentations and discussions on *Language Skills and Entrepreneurship*
- presenting logo suggestions
- voting for EASY logo
- sightseeing Sofia (St. George Church, St. Sophia Church, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, National Archaeological Museum, Ivan Vazov National Theatre, Sofia mineral baths)

TUESDAY, 13th January

- visiting Excellpack Bulgaria Ltd. (Casing Customizing Company), Plovdiv District
- sightseeing tour of Plovdiv (the Old City, the Ethnographic Museum, the Roman amphitheatre)

WEDNESDAY, 14th January

- Start It Smart Pre-accelerator (Fortex Neutraceuticals)
- Eleven Startup Accelerator, Sofia

THURSDAY, 15th January

- Damascena Rose Oil Production Company
- Starosel Winery Complex

FRIDAY, 16th January

- Betahouse Sofia - presentation on Successful Youth Companies
- Questionnaires
- Feedback and Summary of Activities
- Sightseeing Sofia
- Farewell Dinner

SATURDAY, 17th January

- Certificates of Attendance
- departure



Michael's experience



What experience have you got from the activities within the project?

Activities within the project gave me a lot of informations about companies lying in Bulgaria and from the other countries, but most of all the experience to speak english with my new friends.

Do you think that that experience gained from the project will help in the future or in your future profession?

Firmly Yes! English is very important in the modern world of work, and also the experience that I had from the project and from other businessmen is a brilliant start for a man who begins his or her work.

What experience with the foreign student accommodation or living at a foreign student house do you have?

I think I've got good experience with hosting, or being a guest student. I had no problems.

What are your impressions and experiences from the project?

The project was very exciting and I hope there will be more projects similar to this one.

Michael Jastrzembski, Czech Republic

Why have you signed up for the project and what are you waiting from it? Which country did you visit in the framework of the project?

I've signed up for this project because I was curious and I wanted to see some different parts of our world and also meet some people from other countries. I visited capital of Bulgaria called Sofia.

Do you think that the topic of the project focused on business is the actual theme? And are the young people (students) interested in?

I think that the business is very interesting and actual topic for young people like us. Although our school has another focus it is important to gain experience for a professional future. Thanks to business a man can gain freedom and flexible opportunities in life.

What skills do you gained from the project?

I've gained lot of skills from this project, but what I think, that the most important thing is english. That's main thing what I think that all students need and get from this project.



Proud Czech students with their certificates

Happy Czech team - students and teachers



Czech group during visiting Plovdiv - the second largest city in Bulgaria

Simone's experience



Why have you signed up for the project and what are you waiting from it? Which country did you visit in the framework of the project?

I decided to sign up for the project because I found the programme and the main topics really interesting and I really wanted to try the experience of visiting a foreign country without my parents and being hosted by another boy like me. From the project I'm expecting to improve my knowledge of the English language and to find all the things I learned about entrepreneurship useful. In the framework of the project I visited Bulgaria.

Do you think that the topic of the project focused on business is the actual theme? And are the young people (students) interested in?

Yes, I think that the topic of the project focused on business and entrepreneurship is the actual theme. It is also a very important one because of the economic crisis, which is maybe the most discussed problem around the world nowadays. Entrepreneurship can help people overcome the crisis. I don't know if all youth are interested in this topic, but I am sure that they should be because it could be very useful for their future.

What skills do you gained from the project?

I've certainly improved my English language skills, and I've acquired some of the entrepreneurial skills like motivation, aspiration, determination, competitiveness, problem solving, ideas generation, working with others, overcoming difficulties, presentation, communication, planning, decision making and goal setting.

What experience have you got from the activities within the project?

I had the opportunity to meet a lot of people so I became better in socializing, I visited a new country so I learned a lot of things about Bulgaria and I learned how to better integrate in a foreign culture by spending a week with a Bulgarian family. I also got experience about companies and entrepreneurship by visiting a lot of companies and I understood a little bit of how a company works.

Do you think that that experience gained from the project will help in the future or in your future profession?

Yes, of course. Becoming better in socializing will be useful in my future life in the relationships between me and the other people. Improving my English skills will help me at school and in the world of work. What's more, the entrepreneurial skills I've acquired will probably help me in my profession and to reach my goals.

What experience with the foreign student accommodation or living at a foreign student house do you have?

I had a really enjoyable experience with the foreign student's accommodation. He was a really nice and kind boy, we immediately socialized and got to know each other better and better.

He was very similar to Italian guys in many aspects. Living at his house was a nice experience, too. His parents were so kind, they always satisfied all my needs and they made me feel at home.

What are your impressions and experiences from the project?

I really enjoyed the whole project. The trip to Bulgaria was unforgettable, I had a lot of fun and I found all the activities very interesting. Hosting the foreign guys here in Italy was a nice experience, too. I found all the activities that we did at school interesting and captivating. As I said before, I acquired a lot of skills and experience that will be certainly useful and the project completely opened my mind to other cultures. I would recommend it to everyone.

Simone Melandri, Italy



Italian group during visiting a company Excellpack Bulgaria Ltd.



Proud Italian students with their certificates

ERASMUS+ family



Elviss's experience



Why have you signed up for the project and what are you waiting from it? Which country did you visit in the framework of the project?

Participation in the Erasmus+ mobility I consider as a valuable opportunity to practice and understand the relational aspects of entrepreneurship, as well as to understand the theory of the systemic and the social leadership. I have already started my own business and during the project I am interested in gaining knowledge about concrete leadership tools enabling me to create transparency and direction while planning my future business and at the same time to involve my co-workers, and business partners in meaningful dialogues about goals associated with our business. In addition, during the program I would also like to create a network of skillful and talented international friends for my future ventures. During Erasmus+ project I visited Italy and Bulgaria and I can say that it was a valuable experience.

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What experience with the foreign student accommodation or living at a foreign student house do you have?

Staying with a host family was one of the best aspects of the Erasmus+ mobility because I gained new friends and now I feel that if I would travel again to Italy or

Bulgaria, I would have a place to stay. This feeling widens my point of view and my being home feeling, encourage think more globally also about my future plans and expectations.

Elviss Straupenieks, Latvia



Latvian group with Charlie Chaplin

Latvian student with their headmaster



Eva's experience



What experience have you got from the activities within the project?

The experience I got from the project was about travelling, adventure, friendship.

Do you think that that experience gained from the project will help in the future or in your future profession?

Yes, it will help me because I got to know Sofia that is a major European capital city. For me, a tourism student, it was very helpful to travel, to see tour guides working, to visit different kinds of businesses that couldn't work in my country, to meet and be friends with students and teachers from all around the world.

What experience with the foreign student accommodation or living at a foreign student house do you have?

The experience was very different because it was a different accommodation from the one I live in Portugal. But it was very funny, very exciting and kind of tiring too because we had to wake early sometimes and we got home late in the evening and I liked the food too.

What are your impressions and experiences from the project?

This project was very different and interesting from others, why? Because it showed another part of the business world and of the country, it showed us how different all the schools involved were, how the project theme was discussed and all the opinions. I liked the project a lot and it was, without any doubt, an experience I would repeat.

Eva Paulino, Portugal

Why have you signed up for the project and what are you waiting from it? Which country did you visit in the framework of the project?

I signed up for the project because I wanted to know different countries and people and their culture and also try to learn some words in new languages. I visited Sofia in Bulgaria.

Do you think that the topic of the project focused on business is the actual theme? And are the young people (students) interested in?

Yes, I think it is because the world is innovating every day and it is important to get familiar with the new technologies that appear every day and which entrepreneurs need to do their jobs. The students are interested in it too because we are living in a century and a time in which is not so easy to find a job and the more we know the better for our future in the world of work.

What skills do you gained from the project?

I did gain more confidence in myself, improved team work and English skills, of course. I also had to try to solve problems by myself because I was in a different country.



Portuguese team

**Proud Portuguese team
with their certificates**



**HAPPY Portuguese
:-)**

Cemre's experience



Why have you signed up for the project and what are you waiting from it? Which country did you visit in the framework of the project?

I have signed up this Project because I always wanted to work in multicultural groups and to gain new competences during the Project. And the other reason to participate this Erasmus Plus Project to learn new cultures and make new friends and experience life in host families and share the same home together and learn their culture, home life food generally their life style. When I arrived in Sofia I learned more than I expected. During this mobility I found a good and fruitful opportunities to visit entrepreneurial local enterprises and companies to learn their achievements, what products they produce their developments and their incomes to the local communities.

Do you think that the topic of the project focused on business is the actual theme? And are the young people (students) interested in?

I think EASY Erasmus Plus Strategic School Partnership Project promotes entrepreneurship as a key competence that can develop competitiveness and growth among the young students. And The topic is directly focused on the business especially local business companies which we visited a lot of local companies working with different European countries.

The students in our Project and me have really been interested in the Project topics as the employment problem in many European countries are an important issue so the topic Entrepreneurship can offer many opportunities for young people to emerge from unemployment. The activities prepared for us as young students have given us to be active, responsible, entrepreneurial individuals by learning real experiences. The Project topic also offers us an good opportunity for promoting social entrepreneurship in our lives.

What skills do you gained from the project?

We had the opportunity to see their social enterprises and listen to some of the advices of Bulgarian entrepreneurs. We also received practical skills which inspired us to take their ideas and give us the confidence to consider to be a good entrepreneurs in the future.

What experience have you got from the activities within the project?

I have learned that if young people are given the opportunity to lead, the opportunity to create something at a very young age we can manage so that we felt something during the Bulgaria Project meeting "Yes we can do", that we can contribute to solving the world's problems. This experience opened my eyes to the importance of the entrepreneurship.

Do you think that that experience gained from the project will help in the future or in your future profession?

This Bulgarian Project meeting experience surely helped me to choose my future careers. As I am studying and interested in foreign languages in the common market and global economy learning foreign

languages is a good opportunity to be an entrepreneur that I realised I was a step further from other students by equipped a foreign language.

What experience with the foreign student accommodation or living at a foreign student house do you have?

Living with a host family offered to me and to us the opportunity, to have a vast cultural experience. Spending day to day life with the local Bulgarian host family I experienced general interactions in families. I learned the way they communicated with one another, greeted each other, shared meals, or where we slept in the house. Living in a local Bulgarian host family gave endless opportunities to explore family tradition of Bulgaria. Staying with my Host family accommodation allowed us to learn about many cultural practices through observation of our host family. We observed interactions between different generations, learn what unique body language implies, and see how certain phrases or actions are used and accepted. It also provided me the opportunity to have valuable cultural information.



Turkish group

Cemre Yilmaz, Turkey

Turkish team during visiting a company



Erasmus+ FRIENDS

Some moments during mobility in Bulgaria



We would like to THANK all who participated in the great organization and for the host country program, Bulgaria, and we look forward to a visit to the other partner country, which is Turkey.